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upper Silurian in Gaspé, Canada. In Europe no land plant has yet been found below the Lower Devonian.

### MICROSCOPY.

**EMBEDDING TISSUES FOR SECTION.**—Dr. William Rutherford, of King's College, London, prefers to embed tissue, which is to be cut without freezing, in a mixture of paraffine (5 parts) and hog's lard (1 part) melted together; this mixture melting at a lower temperature than the wax and oil mixture, and being less liable to become loose by shrinkage in cooling. Tissues that require freezing are to be embedded and frozen in a solution of gum arabic (5 oz.) in water (10 oz.) and spirits of camphor (2 dr.), which, when solidified by cold, slices "as easily as a piece of cheese." Dr. Rutherford's microtome consists essentially of a cylinder with a piston moved by a screw, the upper portion only of the cylinder, where the object is, being surrounded by a box to contain the freezing mixture, of powdered ice and salt; the freezing box is surrounded by flannel, and the water continually forming in it is drained off by a tube through the bottom of the box.

**DISSECTING EMBRYOS.**—W. K. Parker, Esq., late president of the Royal Microscopical Society, dissects early embryos under water, pinning them upon a cake composed of lamp-black and paraffine.

### NOTES.

THE MEMORIAL TO AGASSIZ bids fair to be of such a character as will be gratifying to his family and most appropriate in showing an appreciation of his work. At a public meeting held in Boston on Feb. 13, a large number of gentlemen were present and it was decided that the fittest expression of gratitude for Agassiz' labors for science in this country, would be to insure the maintenance of the Museum which he worked so long and so faithfully to establish for the benefit of the country. It was agreed that at least \$300,000 should be raised by subscription as a memorial fund for the purpose of endowing the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge. A large number of gentlemen, residing in various parts of the country, were named as a nucleus of a general committee for the purpose, as it was believed that the many friends to science all over the land, appreciating the worth